



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
PEACHTREE SEVENTH BUILDING, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30323

Room 645

April 15, 1968

REGION III

IN REPLY REFER TO:

3CP

Mr. Wayne Moore, Jr.
Coordinator
Metropolitan Atlanta Council
of Local Governments
900 Glenn Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Mr. Moore:

Subject: Urban Planning Assistance Program
Funding One Areawide Planning Agency
per Metropolitan Area

This office is in receipt of notification from our Washington office that it is the present departmental policy to support only one areawide agency per metropolitan area. The reasons why grants should not be made to two agencies, as is the case in the Atlanta metropolitan area, as set forth by the Washington office are:

1. Lack of necessity. There is no distinction in the 701 Program between Organizations of Public Officials and metropolitan planning commissions with regard to eligible work. Although Section 701(g) and Planning Agency Letter #50 emphasize coordination of governmental regulations and services, such studies were eligible before the enactment of 701(g).
2. Value to the community of a single areawide agency. Having one areawide agency responsible for developing and coordinating multi-jurisdictional plans, programs and policies on all fronts - social, physical, economic, health, administrative, etc., - is of ultimate benefit to the community. It reduces confusion on the part of elected officials and the people as to where this responsibility rests, and it reduces divisive competition between agencies. Specific 701-assisted work items can be subcontracted to other agencies, but the legal responsibility should lie with the central agency.
3. Conservation of scarce people and dollars. There is a serious shortage of competent public administrators and high-level professional people to fill top staff positions on these agencies. HUD should avoid generating unnecessary additional demand for such personnel. Also, grant funds are scarce. Again, we should avoid creating unnecessary additional demand.

4. Federal policy or coordination in multi-jurisdictional areas. The multiplicity of federal and state assistance programs to urban areas requires that these programs be coordinated at the metropolitan or regional level. President Johnson has called for such coordination, and the Bureau of the Budget has laid out guidelines in Circular A-80. It is unlikely that funding two areawide agencies in the same area through 701 would be in the spirit of these executive pronouncements.

5. Conflicting plans and programs. Dual agencies provide no mechanism for resolving inconsistent plans and programs which likely will be developed by each agency. A policy of dual grants opens the door for serious disputes in the future over the proper role of each agency.

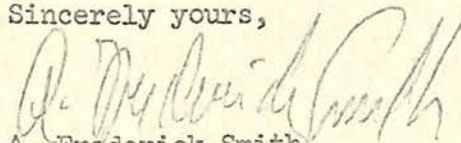
We have been advised also not to accept further applications from two areawide agencies in the same metropolitan area without clearance of such action with the Washington office.

It is our interpretation of the information at hand and from discussions with Washington office personnel that the department does not discourage the creation of two areawide agencies, but that, in the future, it will receive and fund applications from only one such agency. We understand that one areawide agency may file an application for the work program of the second agency and contract the work back to it.

In view of the current relationship existing between Metropolitan Atlanta Council of Local Governments and Atlanta Region Metropolitan Planning Commission, consideration should be given at an early date as to the future organizational arrangements for submittal of and administration of UPA applications.

We will be pleased to meet with representatives of both agencies as may be required.

Sincerely yours,



A. Frederick Smith
Assistant Regional Administrator
Program Coordination and Services
Division